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library and reading circle; open shelf vs. fixed collection; getting books into the parcel post; sub-lending through local public libraries; and traveling libraries for schools. On Thursday afternoon a round table on problems of rural library extension was conducted by Miss Baldwin of Minnesota, with discussion of legislative problems, such as tax levy, library boards, organization and administrative problems. The committee on parcel post presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

PARCEL POST

WHEREAS, the parcel post measure recently enacted excluded from its privileges all library books, much to the disappointment of the state library commissions which operate traveling library systems, and which had strongly urged its enactment when books were included in its provisions, and,

WHEREAS, there seems to be no sound reason why all articles of merely commercial importance should be transported at the lowest rate, while much needed material, educational in its nature, can be transported only at rates so high as to be absolutely prohibited for general use; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the League of Library Commissions urges the passage by Congress of some measure which will include library books and material at the lower rate of transportation provided by the parcel post, and that we favor either a consolidation of third and fourth class mail matter to secure a rate for books and printed matter equal to that of merchandise, or some other provision giving to books belonging to public libraries the parcel post rates, to the end that those living in rural communities be given access to library privileges.

The final session on Friday afternoon was devoted to committee reports and miscellaneous discussion.

The Publications Committee reported that a handbook to aid in library campaigns is in progress; that the list of periodicals for a small library has been revised by Mr. Walter of New York and the A. L. A. Publishing Board has been asked to print it. Miss Carey, Minnesota, reported on a list of books for the insane, which has been compiled by Miss Jones of

the McLean hospital, Waverly, Mass., from the shelf-list of that library, with assistance from Miss Robinson, Iowa, Miss Waugh, Nebraska, and Miss Carey, Minnesota. The publication of this list was recommended to the Publications Committee for favorable consideration.

The committee on charter provisions for public libraries reported that after conference with the A. L. A. committee it was decided that owing to variation in the laws of different states it was advisable to formulate general provisions for such charters, rather than outline a definite charter.

A letter from Mrs. Sneed, Georgia, chairman of the committee on federal prison libraries, announced that appropriations of \$2,500 each for the prisons at Atlanta and Fort Leavenworth and \$500 for McNeil Island have been included in the budget for the coming year. The committee on study outlines reported progress and the expectation that a number of outlines would be ready for publication by the next meeting of the league.

Mr. Kerr, on behalf of the Normal School Librarians in session, asked the co-operation of the league in securing the publication through the U. S. Dept. of Education of a School Library List, which could be used in all states, and of other special lists needed for school libraries and also in outlining a course in library work to be given in normal schools. These plans were heartily endorsed by the league and referred to its executive board for further action.

After resolutions of regret at the absence of the president and a vote of thanks to the Chicago Library Club for the entertainment of the previous evening, the meeting adjourned.

PRESERVATION OF NEWSPAPERS

Report of the Committee on "The Deterioration of Newsprint Paper" Made to the A. L. A. Council, January, 1913

It is unnecessary at this time to do more than call your attention to previous reports on the subject of the better preser-

vation of newspapers as made by the committee to the Mackinac and Ottawa Conferences.

At Ottawa the report brought out some discussion by members of the Association, but the time did not permit of that freedom of speech necessary to the consideration of a matter of such serious importance. With the hope that more time will be given to the subject in the smaller body, this report is submitted to the Council.

The committee has continued its work during the year, gathering additional information and statistics, and is now ready to make final suggestions to the Association through the Council.

On November 26th a conference was held in Brooklyn attended by one member of the committee and by representatives of several New York papers. A somewhat detailed report on "The preservation of paper"* was submitted to this conference by John Norris, chairman of the committee on paper of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association.

Mr. Norris in his report stated that the American Chemical Society had specified a grade of paper consisting of 75% rag and 25% bleached chemical pulp, or its equivalent, for the records of the society, and had secured the desired quality for approximately 6½ cents per pound.

He also stated that in 1904, Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture authorized the Bureau of Chemistry to investigate the subject of suitable papers for government purposes.

The investigation covered about 5,000 samples of paper and resulted in the issue of two circulars by the Bureau of Chemistry. Subsequently the Joint Committee of Congress on Printing appointed a commission to pass upon this matter. Its report was adopted December 18, 1911, and now controls all government supplies of paper and printing and binding materials. In the following month, a public bidding was held. The standard specification for

printing paper that would "endure indefinitely" was as follows:

Weight, 25 x 40, 500; 50-pound basis (24x38-45).

Thickness shall not exceed .0035 inch.

Strength shall not be less than 18 points.

Stock shall be not less than 75 per cent rag; the remainder may be bleached chemical wood, free from unbleached or ground wood pulp.

Ash shall not exceed 5 per cent.

Size—The total rosin shall not exceed 2 per cent.

The contract for paper supplied on this specification was awarded at 4½ cents per pound.

A lengthy discussion followed the presentation of the report. It was agreed that the additional cost for the better grade of paper would not be serious, and that there would probably be no difficulty in getting the paper mills to produce the higher grade in rolls of the right size if there was a demand for it, but that the question of the cost of handling the special edition was one which would have to be settled by the individual publisher and would probably vary greatly in different offices according to the style of presses in use.

Mr. H. F. Gunnison, for the Brooklyn Eagle, stated that that paper would undertake to publish such an edition, beginning with the first of the year [1913], and would supply a library with two copies, one on the regular wood-pulp paper for current use—the other on the special grade of paper. The special copies would be unfolded, stored in a dark place, and delivered to the library once a month. This he estimated could be done with their presses at a very small expense.

As an outcome of the discussion Mr. Norris agreed to ascertain from publishers how many would feel justified in printing an extra edition, and the A. L. A. Committee was to find out how many librarians would subscribe for such an edition and what particular papers would be taken.

The circulars sent out, and replies thereto, form the appendices of this report.

The publishers' circular was sent to

* Copies of this report may be obtained from John Norris, World Bldg., New York City.

every member of the association—330 in number—while the A. L. A. circular went to 180 libraries.

To the former 167 replies were received and to the latter 144.

A large majority of publishers were inclined to think the cost prohibitive, but ten publishers beside the Eagle found the project sufficiently attractive to justify the labor and cost which a special edition would entail. These were

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.
The Capital, Topeka, Kansas.
The Daily Northwestern, Oshkosh, Wis.
The Minneapolis Tribune.
New Orleans Item.
New Yorker Staats-Zeitung.
Providence Evening Bulletin.
Providence Journal.
The St. Paul Pioneer Press.
The Washington Evening Star.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican and the Louisville (Ky.) Herald responded that they might consider the matter later.

The letters from the N. Y. Evening Post, the Chicago Daily News and the Portland (Maine) Evening Express, included herewith, are interesting as showing the willingness of publishers to bear their share—and more—of the burden.

All librarians who answered were anxious to have newspapers for binding purposes printed on a grade of paper better than the ordinary edition, but most of them were likely to subscribe for the local paper only.

J. L. Gillis, state librarian of California, wrote that he thought he would be able to interest California publishers sufficiently to induce them to issue a special edition.

J. I. Wyer, Jr., state librarian of New York, said that before subscribing for some fifty daily and weekly papers in New York state he would help the cause by sending a preliminary letter* to newspaper publishers stating that he was considering their papers for preservation in bound form, but was reluctant to place a continuing subscription unless assurances should be given that the grade of paper on which they were

printed would be of the same quality as that of the Brooklyn Eagle.

Editorials have appeared in many newspapers, most of them favorable to the general scheme, a few, however, have taken the opposite tack and ridiculed the idea.

The New York Evening World of December 11, 1912, whose representative at the conference had been in favor of the project, at least so far as other papers were concerned, printed an editorial against what it called "preserved" or "pickled" newspapers, belittling the importance of newspaper files to the future historian.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle of December 12 answered "The World" by stating its belief that newspapers would be of value to posterity and announced, as a proof of its conviction, that it would meet the wishes of librarians by printing a special edition on a better quality of paper than that used for the regular edition.

The publishers of this paper through a circular issued December 14, 1912, announced that beginning January 1, 1913, they would issue an extra edition on 75% rag paper at a subscription price of \$15 per year. The Eagle is the first paper to take a decided stand which it is hoped will soon be followed by a number of newspapers throughout the country.

The investigation of the committee has brought out the fact that the preservation of newspapers depends not alone upon the quality of paper on which they are printed, but also upon the attention which is given to the binding and storage of the papers. This is shown in Mr. Norris's report.

"An examination of the places of storage in the libraries and of the conditions of storage convinces me that while the ordinary newsprint paper may not be in any respect suitable for purposes of preservation, the methods of handling those papers when bound are conducive to deterioration. This criticism applies not only to libraries but to newspaper offices and substantially to all places where newspaper files are stored. In many of the libraries, the files are subjected to treatment which deprives the paper of its

* Appendix D.

required moisture. The libraries dry out the newspapers by keeping them in rooms with an average temperature of 70°, which is bound in the course of time to cause deterioration. The artificial heat renders the paper extremely brittle and makes it crumble like isinglass when handled. Excessive dampness is also disadvantageous.

"Improvement in the preservation of these historical records may be obtained: 1st. By using a printing paper that will endure indefinitely. 2d. By binding with materials that do not attract minute organisms. 3d. By storing under conditions (a) that do not deprive the paper of all its moisture; (b) or subject it to excessive dampness; (c) or subject it to chemical action produced by sunshine or gas or artificial heat or similar agencies of deterioration; (d) or propagate insects or other growth."

The following is a summary of the suggestions and recommendations of your committee.

a. That bound volumes of newspapers printed since 1880 should be printed on the edges with "cellit," an American product prepared by the Chemical Product Company, Boston, or a similar preparation.

b. That they be stored in a sealed room, where possible, of an even temperature of 50°, free from dampness.

c. That the volumes be kept flat with air space about them and not be exposed to sunlight.

d. That current numbers be kept flat, and bound with a good serviceable material as soon as the volume is completed.

e. That librarians endeavor to induce local publishers to print a special library edition on a 75 per cent rag paper.

f. That librarians subscribe only to those newspapers which are printed on paper better than the regular edition.

g. That librarians consider the desirability of securing legislation by which the subscriptions of state libraries would be limited to papers which are printed on a 75 per cent rag paper.

h. That the following circular, to be called "Circular No. 2," be sent to librarians with the request to send answers to the secretary of the A. L. A.

Preservation of Newspapers

Circular No. 2 to be sent to librarians by the A. L. A.

Replies to be sent to the secretary, George B. Utley, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

1. Name of library.
2. City.
3. What newspapers are bound by your library?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. Would you subscribe for a special edition of the above papers (or any of them) on a better grade of paper at an extra cost?

5. Which ones?

6. Will you agree to influence the publishers in your state to print an extra edition on better paper?

7. Do you know of any publisher in your city or state who will print such special edition?

Information on the subject may be found in reports made at A. L. A. Conferences, Mackinac, 1910, Ottawa, 112, A. L. A. Council, 1913, and the special report of John Norris, World Building, New York City.

The committee has been asked by some librarians to go into the question of the preservation of manuscripts, but has not done so because it felt that this was a matter requiring separate investigation.

The committee in its search for a newsprint paper which would endure indefinitely has learned that there is no insurmountable barrier to prevent the printing of a special edition of a newspaper after the regular edition has been run off—provided librarians will interest themselves in the subject and will be willing to pay extra for such an edition. It now remains for librarians and state associations to take action in their own localities. In many states there are probably two or three papers which would be taken by at least ten or fifteen libraries.

With this report, the committee considers its labor ended and asks to be discharged, leaving to local associations and individual librarians the task of gaining further concessions from the publishers.

Whatever results have been achieved are due to the interest, practical suggestions and co-operation of newspaper publishers throughout the country, and particularly of those in New York who took part in the

conference with the committee. Our thanks are given them heartily and appreciatively, and in the same manner to Mr. John Norris, chairman of the Publishers' Committee on paper, who has aided us so materially in bringing about practical co-operation.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK P. HILL,
HORACE G. WADLIN,
CEDRIC CHIVERS.

Appendix A.

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION.

903 Pulitzer Building,
New York.

In the matter of preservation of newspaper files for future reference, I have been asked by the American Library Association to inquire of you if the idea of printing a few copies of your editions upon special paper appeals to you. The subject is treated quite fully in accompanying bulletin. Will you kindly advise me on enclosed blank?

Yours truly,
(Signed) JOHN NORRIS.

Appendix B.

Reply to inquiry of American Library Association in Matter of Preservation of Newspaper Files

To Committee on Paper,
American Newspaper Publishers Assn.,
903 World Building, New York City,
N. Y.

The suggestion of the American Library Association that we print a number of copies of our daily newspaper on special paper for the purpose of indefinitely preserving the files of this publication does
does not } seem sufficiently attractive to us
to justify the labor and cost which it will entail.

Newspaper.....
City.....
State.....
December , 1912.

Appendix C.

Request from American Library Association

Date..... 1912
Name of Library
City
State

1. Number of daily newspapers, the regular issues of which are bound and preserved by the library or society.

2. Are the bound files stored flat or upright?

3. Is there sunlight in the room in which the bound files are stored?

4. Is gas used for illumination or any other purpose in any part of the library, especially near that room in which the bound files are stored?

5. Is there any ventilation around the bound files that will permit of the free ventilation of outside air?

6. Is there artificial heat in the room in which the bound files are stored?

7. Are the variations of humidity in outside air permitted to reach the bound files?

8. Are the bound files stored in sealed cases or are they kept in such manner as to be protected from dust in the air?

9. Is any attempt made in building * to guard against insects?

10. What suggestions do you offer to secure the preservation of records of current history?

Please send reply to George B. Utley, Secretary
American Library Association, 78 E. Washington St,
Chicago, before December 15th.

Appendix D.

New York State Education Department

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 31, 1912.

Gentlemen: The New York State Library in re-establishing the collection destroyed by fire March 29, 1911, is about to subscribe to twenty-five representative daily papers in all parts of the country. The name of your journal is under consideration as one of this number. It is our plan to bind and preserve these papers and in time to secure as complete a file as possible of earlier volumes. Before deciding upon your paper we wish to know whether it has, following the example of the New York Evening Post, the Brooklyn Eagle, and

* This should have read "binding."

certain others, made any arrangement for printing a limited edition for libraries on a grade of paper which seems calculated to last indefinitely, as well for instance, as the Colonial papers printed in the latter part of the eighteenth century. I enclose Hill. The deterioration of newspaper paper.

American Newspaper Publishers' Association, Bulletin 2795.

These will acquaint you with details as to the recent efforts to secure for the libraries of the country its important daily papers in satisfactory form for preservation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. I. WYER, JR.

Appendix E.

THE EVENING POST.

New York City, Dec. 9, 1912.

Mr. John Norris,
903 World Building, City.

Dear Mr. Norris: Answering yours of the 6th inst., in which you explain that you wrote to me at the request of the American Library Association to inquire into the matter of the preservation of newspaper files for future reference, etc., would say that I have filled out the blank which you enclosed, and return it herewith. The Evening Post does not consider the suggestion sufficiently attractive to justify the labor and cost which would be entailed, but in forwarding you this reply, I also feel that I want to take this occasion to explain that we really are interested in the matter, and would like to see something done, and would be willing to contribute in a reasonable way, with a view to accomplishing it if a practicable way of doing so could be suggested. We do not feel, however, that we would be justified in going to the expense which the plan suggested would undoubtedly entail, aside from the labor and trouble, unless it could be agreed that a reasonable part of such extra expense would be borne by the libraries. For example, it seems to me that the libraries should be willing to have us charge them a sufficient amount over and above the usual charge of \$9 per year to enable them to pay at least one-

half of the extra expense, but we do not feel that it would be proper or just to shoulder all of the increased cost on the newspaper.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. J. PATTISON, Publisher

EVENING EXPRESS PUBLISHING COMPANY

Portland, Me.

Dec. 9, 1912.

Mr. John Norris,
903 World Building,
New York.

Dear Mr. Norris:—I am enclosing the blank in regard to preserving newspaper files, and would offer as a suggestion that it might be possible to make photographic reproductions of newspapers for preservation.

Individual papers could not undertake this, but, if this work could be done at some central point by a plant specially equipped for the purpose, the cost for the individual newspapers might not be prohibitive. It might be found, however, that the expense would be too great to warrant such a thing.

Yours truly,

EVENING EXPRESS PUB. CO.

(Signed) Wm. H. Dow,

Treas. and Bus. Mgr.

EVENING EXPRESS PUBLISHING CO.

Portland, Me., Dec. 11, 1912.

Mr. John Norris,
903 World Building.

Dear Sir:—Replying further to your letter of the 7th:

In signing the blank in the negative in regard to the preservation of newspaper files, it does not mean that the matter does not interest us.

It would be most desirable, if it were possible, to print a certain number of copies of a paper for preservation on cloth or some permanent quality of paper, but in our case where we use rolls of various widths, according to the number of pages we issue, the problem of printing copies for preservation is much greater than in the case of a paper not having great variations in the number of pages.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Wm. H. DOW, Treas.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
Victor F. Lawson, Publisher
December 10, 1912.

Mr. John Norris,
903 Pulitzer Building,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Norris:—In answer to your letter of December 7, I will say that I think the statement made in your Bulletin that it would not pay a newspaper to print especially a small number of copies of its editions on special paper, is a correct one, and I believe, therefore, that in

order to work out a proposition which will render permanency to any newspaper files, it will probably be necessary to settle upon two or three papers in the United States and furnish such papers with enough subscriptions to more or less cover the cost of such special printing. The proposition might be worked out if enough such subscriptions could be obtained.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) H. L. ROGERS,
Business Manager.